

TALKING POINTS FOR THE ADDI

23 June 1986

ANGOLAGovernment Offensive Pending

The ongoing build-up of Angolan forces and recent outbreak of fighting between government and UNITA forces in central Angola suggest that Luanda's dry season offensive may get underway in July. [redacted]

The latest fighting is taking place in the vicinity of Munhango in central Angola, involving three government brigades and 3,000 UNITA troops. [redacted]

Munhango

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- [redacted] government forces occupied Munhango early last week following a two-week push. Munhango lies astride a key supply line to UNITA forces in the north and is on a potential government supply route to its forces in the east. [redacted]

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- UNITA has sent reinforcements to the area. Savimbi apparently did not opt for a static defense of Munhango, and [redacted] allowed government forces to occupy the town in order to lure them into a series of planned ambushes in the area. [redacted]

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[redacted] Menongue and Luena - main government bases for support of an offensive in the southeast -- shows apparent training of new conscripts and extensive air transport activity at the airfields, indicating reinforcements continue to reach forward positions. [redacted]

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- [redacted] Luanda has deployed MIG-23 interceptors to Menongue and the additional MIG-21's to Luena. [redacted]

build up

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- Up to 10,000 government troops are reported to be in position near Lucusse and Cuito Cuanavale, jumping-off points for attacking the southeast. UNITA is reported to have clashed already with elements of these forces. [redacted]

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Earlier this month UNITA raided Cabinda for at least the third time this year. [redacted]

Cabinda

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- [redacted] UNITA attacked governmental and commercial targets in the city of Cabinda but did not raid US-operated oil facilities as earlier claimed. Recent increases in security around oil facilities may have discouraged UNITA from attacking these specific targets, but further UNITA raids in Cabinda province are likely. [redacted]

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- The marked increase in UNITA activity in Cabinda has heightened Angolan suspicion of Zairian collusion with UNITA. []
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UNITA's Use of Stingers

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UNITA [] used Stingers for the first time during the recent fighting. The insurgents reportedly sent two launchers and six missiles to the Munnango front in late May when government forces began their operation. []

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- At last count, UNITA claims to have downed two helicopters (MI-8 and MI-24) and two fighters (MIG 21 and MIG 23) with the missiles. []
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- Perception in Luanda that UNITA is using the Stingers against its helicopters and fighters likely will lead to imposition of more restrictive flight rules to lessen exposure in combat. []

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Military Deliveries

A record number of Soviet ships and heavy-lift transport aircraft have delivered military equipment to Angola over the last six months. This surge in deliveries more than replenishes FAPLA losses sustained during the 1985 offensive. []

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South Africa apparently remains prepared to help UNITA with direct military support if necessary. []

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- [] continued strengthening of Rundu, the main support base for UNITA in Namibia. []

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- The reported South African commando raid against Soviet and Cuban ships

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in the Angolan seaport at Namibe probably was intended to hinder further military deliveries and to demonstrate Pretoria's willingness to intervene. []

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Air and Air Defense Developments

The Angolan air force has grown substantially in the past few years. Large ~~Soviet aircraft deliveries and increased training of Angolan pilots is~~ producing a more effective air arm for Luanda, although Angola still requires both Cuban pilots for the more advanced aircraft and close Soviet advisory assistance. []

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- Priority deliveries by AN-22 heavy transports of as many as 16 MIG-23's in the last two months and the recent delivery of 8 SA-8* air defense ~~missile launchers~~ increases Luanda's potential to oppose a South African counterstrike. The MIG-23's were delivered directly from Soviet forces in East Germany to the Angolan airbase at Lubango. []

*E. Gen
to
Lubango*

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- [] information from Soviet military deliveries indicate there are approximately 40 MIG-23's, 70 MIG-21's, and 12 SU-22's in the inventory. []

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Air 25X1*

- [] MIG-23's are now also based at Lubango and Huambo. Aircraft from these bases apparently were sent forward to bolster defenses at Menongue. []

Summary

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* The SA-8 is a mobile surface-to-air missile system which provides short range protection against low-flying aircraft; effective at altitudes of 50 to 10,000 meters.